The DX Bulletin

SPECIAL REPORT

• *America's Oldest Weekly Amateur Radio Publication* •

Chod Harris VP2ML Editor

NEW COUNTRY NEWS

Vienna International Centre 4U1VIC

Potential "New One" status for 4U1VIC is not dead yet. VIARC President Dick Olsen K7AWD discussed the situation with TDXB during Dick's recent visit to the West Coast. He said that conversations with ARRL VIPs Larry Price W4RA and Dave Sumner K1ZZ during their trip to West Germany were encouraging. Other developments include the establishment of a third party agreement between 4U1VIC and the US. If the US State Department thinks VIC is worth a third party agreement, can separate country status be far behind?

Meanwhile, Yaesu has donated a complete station to the VIC Radio Association, based on the excellent international exposure at the Centre. And the UN ambassador to in Vienna is writing a letter to Larry Price W4RA urging separate country status.

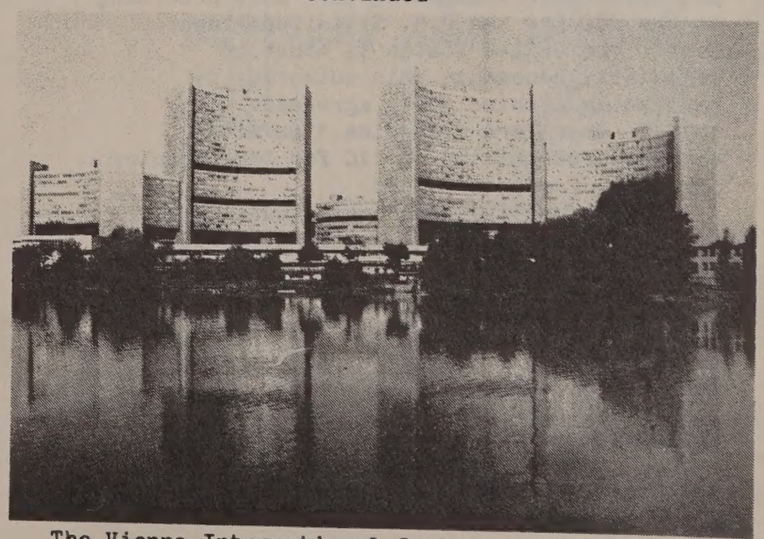
The gang in Vienna has been following the debate in TDXB closely, as shown by the following letter:

> Dear TDXB:
>
> Your 'special report' was well received by the Vienna International ARC and does an excellent job in presenting the situation as well as suggesting a reasonable solution....
>
> Although each major UN center (New York, Vienna, Geneva) could be evaluated on their own merits, some comparison is inevitable. In this regard, I wish to comment on some of the points made by [Bob Locher] W9KNI in his letter to TDXB:
>
> 1. UN passports are issued and renewed in Vienna;
>
> 2. The IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency, the largest of the seven UN agencies at VIC] alone is accorded 94 ambassadors, not including some of the individual Soviet Republics. The US maintains a full ambassador and staff at the US Mission to the UN organizations in Vienna;
>
> 3. UN postage stamps are issued in Vienna, not merely "accepted as a minor courtesy";
>
> 4. The VIARC is like its Geneva counterpart in the international promotion of amateur radio. We publicize the hobby and help prospective amateurs obtain licenses where, for practical or political reasons, this is not possible in their home country. On several occasions, 4U1VIC has been used as a demonstration station for amateur radio.
>
> In closing, I wish to thank you for your assistance in continuing to publicize this matter. I can assure you and your readers that the VIARC does not consider the 4U1VIC DXCC status question to be "retired."
>
> 73, (s) John Oakberg NK4N/OE3ZOC, Vice President, VIARC

VIARC also provided some documentation to bolster their claim for separate country status. The most interesting of these is a legal opinion written in late-1984 by Dale Clift NA1L, then employed in the General Manager's office at ARRL Hq. (Dale has since passed his bar exam, and left Hq. for a law practice.) Since this 9-page paper presents some important points, TDXB will quote it extensively:

> The constituent documents establishing the relationship between VIC and its host country clearly establish that VIC is an extra-territorial entity....The fact that VIC is "extra-territorial" does not, however, disqualify it under Criterion 5(b) [of the DXCC country criteria] from being accorded separate DXCC country status. Criterion 5(b) disqualifies "Embassies, consulates and extra-territorial monuments." It is the word "monuments" that makes Criterion 5(b) inoperative in this case. The VIC is not a monument in any sense of the word. Nor does VIC fit the category of "embassy" or "consulate."
>
> Criterion 1 permits recognition of separate DXCC status when "an area by reason of government constitutes a separate entity." As can be seen by the discussion above [omitted], certain operational and administrative matters relating to the Vienna International Centre are governed independently from the government of the Republic of Austria. The question, then, of whether the VIC is a separate entity, turns on an interpretation of the word "government." The Republic of Austria and the United Nations share the governing authority over VIC.
>
> Because the entire exercise of determining DXCC country status pertains to communications, for DXCC purposes it makes perfect sense to interpret "government" to mean "the exercise of internationally-

-continued-



The Vienna International Centre on the banks of the Danube River. The next New One?

recognized legal authority over postal and electronic communications." While other indicia of "government" should certainly be taken into consideration (e.g. maintenance of armed forces, independent political system, etc.), governance of matters pertaining to communications should play a dominant role.

The Vienna International Centre is one of three major U.N. centers in the world with a U.N. Postal Authority Office that issues U.N. stamps and accepts mail with such stamps. The only other U.N. Postal Administration offices are at the U.N. Headquarters in New York and the U.N. facility in Geneva.

Also, the Legal Liaison of the Vienna International Centre recently sent a cable, received by the U.S. State Department, that requests that a third-party agreement be concluded between the United States and the International Centre. According to staff at the FCC and the U.S. State Department, the U.S. will probably conclude a third-party agreement. This will amount to "the exercise of internationally-recognized legal authority over postal and electronic communications." U.S. recognition of this authority should play a dominant role in interpreting "government" in DXCC Criterion 1.

Such an interpretation would also bring the separate status of 4U1UN and 4U1ITU into conformity with recognition of 4U1VIC. Furthermore, this interpretation would preclude those DXCC country candidates that cannot claim that their legal authority over postal and electronic communications is internationally recognized. The DXCC community may want, however, an iron-clad rule to prevent future U.N. offices for achieving separate country status in the event the U.N. postal authority is extended to other centers. [Dale proposes changes to Criterion 5(b) to eliminate future U.N. entities from making the list.]

Conclusion

Interpretation of "government" in Criterion 1 should be dominated by considering "the exercise of internationally-recognized legal authority over postal and electronic communications." The Vienna International Centre exercises legal authority over postal and electronic communications, and, according to the FCC and the U.S. State Department staff, the United States is about to officially recognize this authority by concluding a third party agreement with 4U1VIC. **Therefore Criterion 1 permits separate recognition of VIC for DXCC country purposes.** [emphasis added]

Criterion 5(b) does not disqualify VIC because, even though it is extra-territorial in nature, it does not fit any of the categories mentioned in the criterion. Consideration should be given to amending Criterion 5(b) if the DXCC community wishes to permanently close this perceived "loophole."

Recognizing 4U1VIC will put it on an equal plane with 4U1UN and 4U1ITU. The similarities between these U.N. entities constitute an additional argument for equal treatment of these three international legal entities.

TDXB's Analysis and Comment

Dale Clift's paper is old news, but the DXAC chose to ignore it when they recommended against separate DXCC country status for 4U1VIC. Note that the DXAC **did** follow Dale's recommendation in the same paper that they "close the loophole" in Criterion 5(b) to the new wording, which specifically excludes United Nations agencies and related organizations from separate DXCC status.

This means that the "loophole closing" was in response to the application of 4U1VIC for separate country status, and thus cannot be used to evaluate that application. The country status of 4U1VIC must be determined by the "old" Criterion 5(b), and Dale's paper clearly shows that the original wording of that paragraph does not exclude 4U1VIC.

Dale's paper also raises the interesting point of relying on authority over communications to determine a New One. Since DX is a form of communications (20-meter phone not withstanding), the use of communications to decide separate DXCC country status is eminently reasonable. Such an interpretation would eliminate much of the politics and foot-dragging which seems to surround consideration of a New One, without requiring actual changes in the DXCC Country Criteria. **Aruba**, for example, issues its own internationally recognized postage stamps, and has control over amateur radio licenses. Use of Dale's recommended interpretation of "separate government" by reason of authority over international communications would clearly elevate Aruba to separate country status.

So where does the foregoing leave us? The DXAC has already voted against separate country status for 4U1VIC, and the group shows little interest in reopening the case. The Headquarters Awards Committee would most likely turn down the application, as they have so many others in recent years. Fortunately, the ultimate power to determine DXCC country status lies with the League's Board of Directors. This group can take a broader viewpoint of DX and DXCC than the DXAC or even the professional staff at Hq. Further, members of the Board must be responsive to their constituents, and listen to the opinions of all DXers, not just the minority who object to any New Ones. TDXB's readers, an admittedly select group of knowledgeable and active DXers, overwhelmingly support establishment of reasonable new countries, such as Aruba and 4U1VIC.

In TDXB's opinion, the most telling argument in favor of separate country status for 4U1VIC is the potential for international exposure to amateur radio at the Centre. Yaesu is putting its money behind that concept, by their donation of equipment for the station. As Bob Locher W9KNI pointed out, the main reason 4U1ITU became a separate DXCC "country" was that station's highly visible location and the potential for introducing amateur radio to officials from around the world. The same potential exists at 4U1VIC, and the ARRL Board can make a similar decision in favor of separate status for VIC.

The establishment of a third party agreement between 4U1VIC and the United States should seal the case. If the U.S. State Department recognizes 4U1VIC as a separate entity for purposes of communications, can even the most conservative DXer argue against separate DXCC country status? TDXB thinks not.

4U1VIC provides a showcase for amateur radio in a prestigious international setting. The VIARC heavily promotes amateur radio, offers classes, and demonstrates the value of radio to visiting dignitaries. They have the support of both the U.N. authorities at VIC and the Austrian amateur community in their quest for separate DXCC country status. Let's grant it!

[Written and copyrighted by Chod Harris VP2ML 1986. All rights reserved.]

DXCC Honor Roll
Making the Top Spot

Dear Chod:

I have finally made the #1 position on the Phone DXCC Honor Roll although it will not be officially recognized until the next Honor Roll listing, probably in June or July of 1987. For several years now I have needed only one country, 70 South Yemen (it used to be VS9A, Aden). When VS9A was on the air regularly I was a student at Boston University and, after graduating, I was married, just beginning a family, and starting a career as a public school teacher. I really had no time nor money for amateur radio. From time to time I would visit my Dad W1HGA and operate his station. This was still my official home QTH. But radio was a very small part of my life at that time. I had 157 countries worked when I was married and had no thoughts about eventually making Honor Roll.

While looking through some of my old log books recently I was dumbfounded to find a QSO with VS9ARV! This was Aden! This was the country I needed to have them all! The QSO was 20 years ago, in 1966. I began searching for the address of VS9ARV, recognizing fully that I would be extremely lucky to get a QSL from a contact made so many years ago. I located an address and sent along a letter of explanation for my waiting so long to request a QSL. Six weeks passed and still no response. Finally, after what seemed an eternity of rushing to the mailbox after work for weeks, I received a nice letter and a beautiful VS9ARV QSL card! I can tell you that "made my day." I still find it hard to believe that I could have overlooked a QSO so important as this but I did. It simply was not important to me at the time. As the years passed, and radio became increasingly more significant to me, I was not aware that the QSO had been made. What a stroke of luck it was when I decided to look through some old log books I came across while beginning to clean my barn! I must also express my thanks to VS9ARV. Without his efficient long-term maintenance of logs and his kindness in searching through these old logs for me, my dream of making the #1 position on the Phone DXCC Honor Roll would not have been a reality. Reaching the #1 position is a 17-year-dream come true!

Very 73, (s) Vern Dameron, Jr. K1DRN

[Congratulations on making the Top Spot, Vern. Your story should serve as both inspiration and warning to fellow DXers. First, even the casual DXer with limited time and money for DX can make the Top Spot with persistence, patience, and care. A super station may speed the process a bit, but the real secret to making the Honor Roll is consistent dedication over the years, and taking advantage of as many opportunities to work rare ones as possible.

[Your tale is also a warning to fellow DXers to pay close attention to QSLing current contacts now, even if one has no intention of ever trying for Honor Roll. You never know how you will feel about DX years down the line, and not many contacts can be QSLed 20 years after the fact. Looking through old log books for long-lost contacts can be fun at the bottom of the sunspot cycle, but the odds of confirming these contacts diminish with each passing year. So fire off those QSL requests now, while the contact is still fresh. And good luck on making Top Spot!]

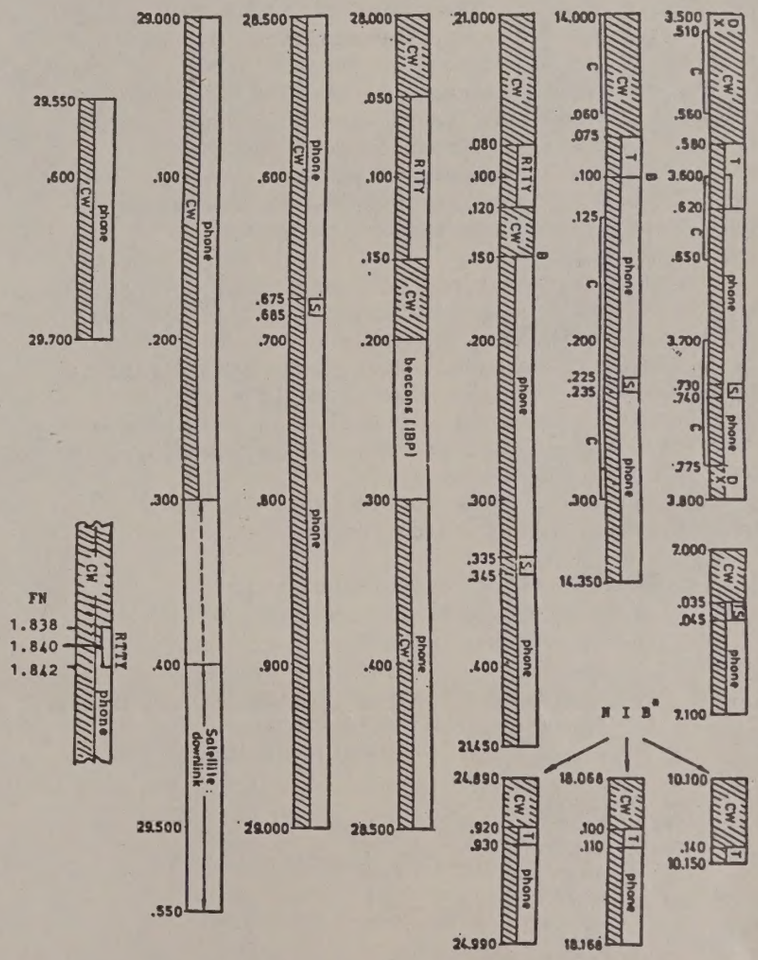
[and speaking of Top Spot, Bob Locher W9KNI sits alone atop the CW DXCC Honor Roll, with 312 confirmed. If Bob can confirm the four countries he needs on CW, he will raise the lower limit of the CW Honor Roll to 307, knocking 35 of the present 53 amateurs off the Top Ten listing! - Chod VP2ML]

IARU Region 2 Band Plan

Delegates from Western hemisphere amateur radio organizations meet in Buenos Aires this October to discuss such matters as a hemisphere-wide amateur radio license (valid in every country), future of packet radio, and whether DXpeditions should be banned. One item on the agenda is consideration of a band plan for IARU Region 2 (North and South America.) The proposed band plan, patterned after one already approved for Region 1 (Europe and Africa) is reproduced below.

Key: All frequencies in kilohertz.
- B = International Beacons
- C = Contest-Preferred Segments
- S = Slow Scan TV
- T = RTTY, including Amtor and Packet
- DX = Intercontinental DX Segments
- NIB = Non-Interference Basis
- FN = Phone below 1840 for countries with appropriate allocations

Direct any comments on this proposed band plan to your IARU member society (ARRL for Stateside DXers.) And please send a copy of any comments to The DX Bulletin. (I wonder if they realize that 40 meters extends above 7100 in Region 2?)



New ZL QSL Bureau Address

New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters (NZART) has a new address for their QSL bureau: P.O.Box 36-118, Moera, Lower Hutt, New Zealand. NZART are the guys who pushed the anti-DXpedition resolution at the IARU Region 3 conference. That resolution may come up to a Western Hemisphere vote at the IARU Region 2 conference this October in Buenos Aires. TDXB will attend that conference, and keep an eye on any anti-DX sentiment among IARU members.

EQUIPMENT NOTES

Phase Noise in the Kenwood TS-940S
Kenwood USA Responds

Dear TDXB:

Thank you for your letter concerning the apparent Phase Noise, or Reciprocal Mixing problem that you mention in your newsletter.

We received several inquiries regarding this apparent problem at Dayton, and have contacted our engineering department in Tokyo to see if they can shed any light on this question. The TS-940S has been tested by both 73 Magazine and QST magazine with no mention of the symptoms you have reported. We are assuming therefore, that this may be a characteristic of some TS-940S'. Until we receive an answer from our engineering department concerning this reported characteristic we can offer no other assistance.

We are extremely concerned whenever we receive this type of report from one of our customers and will continue to seek a definitive answer from the factory.

Regarding the modification that is floating around concerning the SSB power on the TS-940S, Kenwood does not recommend the addition of the capacitor in the ALC circuits. Addition of this capacitor causes an increase in the 3rd harmonic. The radio will not pass FCC tests with this modification. This fact has been confirmed on our test bench on several occasions. The peak output power on the TS-940S in SSB is approximately 80-90% of the CW power. On an average reading wattmeter this will be about 50-70 watts RMS.

I have included a copy of a modification for SSB and CW AGC improvement; you may reproduce it if you like, as long as proper credit is given [see below].

We are sorry we cannot give you a more definitive response at this time. We would like to thank you for your interest and support. We will send you an update on the Phase noise/RM report as soon as we receive additional data from Tokyo.

Sincerely, (s) Craig Martin KR6T, Customer Service Manager, Trio-Kenwood Communications

TS-940S AGC Circuit Improvements

The following changes will improve the adjacent channel rejection of the TS-940S when a relatively strong nearby channel is present (S-4 or above).

The AGC switch should remain in the SLOW position for all but high speed data communications. Most CW operations will also benefit from operation in the SLOW position.

Parts required:

15K ohm 1/4 watt resistor
1 uF 16v electrolytic capacitor
1S1555 diode
0.047 uF 50V electrolytic capacitor

Procedure:

RF UNIT: remove jumper wire JP7 and replace it with the parallel combination of the 15K ohm resistor and the 1S1555 diode. Pay close attention to the orientation of the diode [cathode toward R25]. Add the 1 uF capacitor with the positive terminal to the cathode of the added diode, and the negative terminal to ground.

IF UNIT: Change capacitor C75 from a 1 uF 50V capacitor to a 0.047 uF 50V capacitor.

Time required for this modification is 1 hour or less.

[TDXB has Kenwood-produced circuit diagrams and board views for this modification. SASE, please.]

TDXB's Comment

Well, it was great to finally get some word out of Kenwood. If they received "several" inquiries about the phase noise problem, TDXB must have heard from everyone who complained. If only "some" 940S' have problems, why are all the defective radios in the hands of experienced CW DXers and contesters? And it looks like Kenwood USA hasn't seen the review of the '940S in RSGB's Radio Communications, which does mention phase noise difficulties. TDXB will send Kenwood a copy. Let's hope we hear something solid from them soon.

Meanwhile G3OSS, who pioneered the '940 modification to reduce phase noise, says some Hams may be using only the first half of his suggested fix. The second part of the change speeds up the loop acquisition time which is compromised by the phase-noise reduction mod. Has this been the experience of TDXB readers? In any case, thanks to Kenwood for responding, even in this limited fashion. TDXB will continue to monitor the situation.

New Heathkit Catalog

The latest Heathkit catalog (#203) is in the mail, with an attractive, open layout but with precious little for DXers. Gone is the HW-5400 synthesized transceiver, the last of the Heath full-feature radios. The only transceivers presently sold by Heath are the HW-99 50-watt Novice CW rig, the QRP HW-9, and the HW-6502 2-meter handheld. Continuing the trend of recent years, most of the amateur radio section of the catalog is comprised of accessories such as tuners, RTTY gear, wattmeters, and the like.

One new piece of ham gear is the SA-2550 Antenna Bandwidth Doubler. The $149.95 remote-controlled device incorporates a motor-driven variable-capacitor antenna tuner to provide a broader bandwidth for dipoles and verticals.

Write Heath, Benton Harbor MI 49022 for a copy of the new catalog.

Baffin Island DXpedition

Toby Sepella will operate as KC3PT/VE8 from Baffin Island in Canada's Northwest Territories for three weeks, Aug. 4-25. He's prowling around Auyuittuq National Park doing solo-technical rock and ice climbing, but will also carry a Sony ICF 2001 digital receiver and 1-watt CW transmitters for 40-20 meters. His main contact back to home and family will be via ham radio.

His crystal-controlled rigs transmit on 14010, 14057, 10104, 7010, and 7030. Expected hours of operation are 2300-0200 and 1000-1300Z. Baffin counts at NA-47 for IOTA fans and CQ Zone 2 for WAZ-50 enthusiasts.

CONTESTS

Wild Bunch 160 Meter SSB Contest

Rob Koziomkowski KA1SR reports that the Wild Bunch 160 SSB contest runs 0000Z Aug. 2 to 2400Z Aug. 3, with both single and multi-operator categories. Scoring is very complicated, but Rob will compute it from your logs. Exchange reports and membership information, if any. Contact Rob at 5 Watson Dr., Portsmouth RI 02871 for more information. Ask about his 160 meter bulletin, too.